

## Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMAL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: AR, BH, BR, BB, VE, MX, CI, PN, UK, JM, GT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR  
PETER JAY -- LATIN AMERICA

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1. DURING A MEETING AT THE DEPT WITH THE SECRETARY ON NOVEMBER 30, BRITISH AMBASSADOR JAY ASKED WHETHER THE SECRETARY WAS ABLE TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL IN THE COURSE OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.
2. THE SECRETARY THOUGHT THAT HE HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS.

VIDELA FELT SOMEWHAT SHORED-UP BY OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM ON THIS PROBLEM BELIEVING THAT IT WOULD STRENGTHEN HIS HAND WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA. IT IS OUR OWN JUDGMENT THAT VIDELA WILL TAKE SOME ACTION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, PROBABLY RELEASING SOME DETAINEES. THEY MAY ALSO RELEASE INFORMATION ON WHO IS AND WHO IS NOT UNDER DETENTION. VIDELA INTENDS ALSO TO TAKE SOME PRIVATE STEPS TO PERMIT THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO VISIT THE DETENTION PLACES BY THE END OF NOVEMBER. BUT IT WILL BE A LONG PROCESS AND VIDELA WILL HAVE A TERRIBLE FIGHT WITHIN HIS OWN GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. WE BELIEVE HE IS DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGES.

3. ASKED BY JAY WHETHER BRAZIL WAS NOW PREPARED TO RECONSIDER ITS REPROCESSING PLANT, THE SECRETARY SAID: "NO, NOT AT THIS TIME," BUT HE FOUND THE ATMOSPHERE IN BRAZILIA COMPLETELY CHANGED. THE BRAZILIANS ARE NOW WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH US WITHOUT EMOTION. THEY WERE PREPARED TO EXCHANGE TECHNICAL DATA WITH US. THEY WERE POSITIVE ON THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL RECYCLING STUDY AND EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN OUR STUDY OF THORIAN TECHNOLOGY. WE LEFT THEM A PAPER. THEIR INTEREST IS OBVIOUS BECAUSE BRAZIL HAS VAST QUANTITIES OF THORIA.

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4. JAY ASKED WHETHER ARGENTINA STILL THINKS THEY HAVE TO HAVE A REPROCESSING PLANT. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE ARGENTINIANS ARE PREPARED TO GIVE UP THEIRS IF THE BRAZILIANS WILL GIVE UP THEIR REPROCESSING PLANT. ACTUALLY, ARGENTINA DOES NOT NEED SUCH A PLANT.

5. ASKED BY JAY IF HE HAD HAD OCCASION TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WITH THE ARGENTINIANS, AS THE UK HAD REQUESTED, THE SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD TAKE NO PRECIPITOUS ACTION NOW THAT THIS QUESTION WAS UNDER NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE TOLD THEM THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT A NUMBER OF THE INHABITANTS OF THESE ISLANDS DID NOT WANT THE ISLANDS TURNED OVER TO ARGENTINA. THEREFORE, WE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. THE ARGENTINIANS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD. ASKED BY JAY WHETHER THEY PROVIDED ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD TAKE NO PRECIPITOUS ACTIONS, THE SECRETARY SAID HE COULD NOT CHARACTERIZE THEIR RESPONSE AS AN "ASSURANCE" BUT THEY STATED THEIR APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM WOULD BE

CONSISTENT WITH THE CONCERNS THAT WE HAD MENTIONED.

6. JAY SAID BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT STATISTICS INDICATING THAT US TRADE HAD DOUBLED WITH CHILE FOR THE 1972-76 PERIOD WITH THE HELP IN PART OF OFFICIAL CREDITS. HIS CONCERN WAS WHETHER THIS WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S STATED POLICY TOWARDS CHILE AND WONDERED WHETHER THE SECRETARY WAS AWARE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD CHECK INTO THIS QUESTION BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH OWEN IN BRUSSELS ON DECEMBER 7.

7. FOR BELIZE, CARACAS, GUATE ALA, KINGSTON, LONDON, MEXICO AND PANAMA: COMMENTS ON BELIZE FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. VANCE  
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